

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (previously presented) A method for communication in a radio communication system comprising mobile stations and network-side devices, the network-side devices comprising network-side antennas distributed over a plurality of positions within a radio cell, the method comprising:

transmitting a request message that requests a mobile station to transmit a signaling message, the request message being transmitted via at least one network-side antenna, the request message being transmitted to the mobile station and being used exclusively for requesting the signaling message;

receiving the signaling message from the mobile station, the signaling message being received by at least one of the network-side antennas; and

after receiving the signaling message, transmitting a user data message to the mobile station via a plurality of transmitting network-side antennas, the transmitting network-side antennas being selected as only the network-side antennas that received the signaling message from the mobile station.

10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the request message is sent at regular time intervals.

11. (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 9, wherein the request message is transmitted only when a certain period of time elapsed since the last transmission of a message of the same type as the request message.

12. (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 9, wherein the request message is transmitted via all network-side antennas of the radio cell.

13. (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 9, wherein the radio communication system has a plurality of cells, each with a plurality of network-side antennas distributed therein, and the request message is transmitted via all network-side antennas of all radio cells.

14. (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 9, wherein the request message is transmitted from a plurality of network-side antennas, and the plurality of network-side antennas used to transmit the request message all belong to a same radio cell.

15. (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 9, wherein the request message is transmitted from a plurality of network-side antennas, the radio communication system has a plurality of cells, each with a plurality of network-side antennas distributed therein, and the plurality of network-side antennas used to transmit the request message reside in at least two different radio cells.

16. (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 15, wherein the request message identifies the radio cell in which the network-side antenna resides, and the signaling message identifies the radio cell or radio cells from which the mobile station received the request message.

17. (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 11, wherein the request message is transmitted via all network-side antennas of the radio cell.

18. (previously presented) A network-side device in a radio communications system, which comprises network-side antennas distributed over a plurality of positions within a radio cell, the network-side device comprising:

means for receiving, via at least one of the network-side antennas, a signaling message from a mobile station or for receiving information about receipt of the signaling message from the mobile station, which signaling message was received via at least one of the network-side antennas, the signaling message being received in response to a request message sent to and

received at the mobile station via at least one network-side antenna, the request message being transmitted exclusively for the purpose of requesting the signaling message;

means for choosing transmitting network-side antennas from the plurality of network-side antennas, the transmitting network-side antennas being chosen as only the network-side antennas that received the signaling message from the mobile station; and

means for causing a user data message to be transmitted to the mobile station via the transmitting network-side antennas.

19. (previously presented) A computer readable medium storing a computer program for a network-side device in a radio communications system, which comprises network-side antennas distributed over a plurality of positions within a radio cell, the program when executed by a computer causes the computer to perform a method comprising:

receiving information about receipt of a signaling message from a mobile station, the signaling message being received at least one of the network-side antennas, the signaling message being received in response to a request message sent to and received at the mobile station via at least one network-side antenna, the request message being transmitted exclusively for the purpose of requesting the signaling message;

choosing transmitting network-side antennas from the plurality of network-side antennas, the transmitting network-side antennas being chosen as only the network-side antennas that received the signaling message from the mobile station; and

causing a user data message to be transmitted to the mobile station via the transmitting network-side antennas.